Members Update 2024 | Issue 3

Do you have any suggestions on what to share with members? Email us at: info@wide-network.org.

3rd WE-EMPOWER International Training, 29 February and 1 March in Madrid, Spain

On Thursday 29 February and Friday 1 March, the third international training that is part of the WE-EMPOWER project took place in Madrid, Spain. It coincided with a public event and the fourth project meeting where 16 people from WIDE+ members and the project partners took part. During the meeting, the participants discussed and reflected on our ways of working and mutual collaboration as partners. Through a series of participatory activities, they also got creative with ideas on how to present and share remaining project deliverables as well as discussed actions for future collaborations. The training part focused on gaining more from using online tools for collaboration and feminist education.
The public event, organised by Red de Mujeres Latinoamericanas y del Caribe, showcased the work carried out by partner organisations to promote migrant women's civic and political participation. This included Gender and Development in Practice (GADIP), the Association of Romanian Women's Lobby in collaboration with A.D.R.I. in Italy, and GABRIELA Germany. The second panel, titled "The Right to Vote for Migrants Residing in Spain," featured local government representatives and the powerful testimony of Carolina Elías Espinoza, highlighting the structural and cultural barriers faced by migrant women as domestic workers in Spain and their challenges in political participation.

**Gender and Trade Coalition calls on World Trade Organisation (WTO) to promote a feminist trade policy**

Ahead of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization (WTO), the [Gender and Trade Coalition (GTC)](https://genderandtrade.org), a global alliance of international and regional feminist networks and progressive allies across civil society, academia and trade
unions, of which WIDE+ is a steering member, has released a letter to the Member States and Director General Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala asking them to address ‘gender issues’ in the WTO in an alternative manner. The GTC, which represents over 250 organizations that has signed on to its unity statement, wants a global trade policy advances feminist trade analysis and advocates for an equitable policy.

The statement focuses on the issues with the current paradigm of trade liberalisation under the WTO which has adversely affected women's rights in the field of agriculture, health and vaccine equity, critical public services, e-commerce and digital labor. It goes on to add how WTO rules have blocked policy space for autonomous development to meet broader development objectives such as income, food and health security, and digital infrastructure capabilities.

To read the full GTC letter, click here.

Also, the first GTC Members Call 2024 has been recorded and can be accessed here (picture above with Edmé Dominguez top right representing WIDE+).

**WIDE+ signed the Civil Society Open Letter to Ministers on WTO Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations**

Ahead of the MC13 in February, the WIDE+ gender and trade working group and 67 other organisations from around the world also signed an open letter, showing a global voice of concern on the WTO Fisheries Subsidies Negotiations. Civil Society is critical about the negotiations, as it currently will enable subsidieis for large companies who have the greatest historical responsibility for overfishing and stock depletion, while it excludes all small-scale fishers from any subsidy prohibitions. It also prevents the WTO from ruling on the validity of conservation and management measures of members.

You can find the letter here (English, Spanish and French).

**EU-Chile Trade Agreement approved by MEPs despite CSOs, including WIDE+, warnings of its implications for human rights and the environment**

On 29 of February the MEPs (Members of European Parliament) approved the EU-Chile Advanced Framework Agreement (AFA) and its complementing deal on trade and investment liberalisation. Alongsidge numerous CSOs, WIDE+ signed the open letter
calling on MEPs to vote against the AFA, and warning about the implications it will have for the environment and (indigenous) human rights in Chile.

You can find the letter [here](#).

**WIDE+ signed the open letter: The time is right to finally drop EU-Mercosur Trade Deal**

Alongside more than 40 organisations across Europe, WIDE+ signed the Friends of the Earth Europe open letter to call on EU institutions to listen to farmers, citizens and organised civil society and finally end the negotiations of the EU-Mercosur trade deal.

You can find the letter [here](#).

**WIDE+ new Communication Officer: Stephanie Höglund**

Stephanie Höglund is WIDE+’s Communications Officer. She holds experience within communication, social media and project coordination from the UN, NGOs and government institutions.

As an advocate for equal rights and social justice, Stephanie sees it as her calling to leverage her personal and professional skills to contribute to changemaking. This, as well as her cross-cultural background from Sweden and the Philippines, is what has drawn her to work and volunteer for different humanitarian, social and development causes in Luxembourg, the Philippines, Ethiopia and Denmark.

Stephanie studied Sociology and Economics, with a Master in Development and International Relations. To contact: communication[at]wideplus.org, and you connect with her on [Linkedin](#).
Members and Partners News

Olga Karach awarded Alexander Langer Prize for Human Rights Defenders and Peacebuilders, November 2023 in Italy.

In November 2023 in the Italian Parliament, Olga Karach, the director of the Belarusian human rights defender and director of the Lithuania-based organisation "Nash Dom" (Our House) as well as member of WIDE+ working group on feminist movement building, was awarded the prestigious Alexander Langer Prize for Human Rights Defenders and Peacebuilders. Olga Karach has also been nominated for the 2024 Nobel Peace Prize.

General News

Opportunities

CONCORD Webinar Series between 11 and 25 March 2024

CONCORD is organising a series of webinars, each conducted in a different language (EN, FR, ES) and tailored to specific EU partner regions. The webinars take place between March 11 and 25, and are aimed at boosting advocacy skills and influencing the modalities of 2024-2027 Annual Actions Plans (AAPs) with EU Delegations.

Click here to register.

WUNRN and Bridging Development Gaps Webinar, 11 March 2024
Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN) and Bridging Development Gaps is organising a webinar on Bridging Development Gaps to Increase Women's Empowerment, Leadership, & Rights on 11 March at 5.30 PM CET.

Click here to register.

General News

Women CSO leaders for systemic change

"WOMEN CSO LEADERS FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE: How to Support Feminist Leadership in Europe" is the first study of its kind with contributions from close to 150 leaders in the civil society sector.

The report "aims to take stock of the progress of the last decade, as well as identify remaining barriers and new opportunities for women CSO leaders in achieving systemic change in Europe."

Access the full report here:
https://eu.boell.org/en/women-cso-leaders-for-systemic-change

Our world is not for sale
Our World Is Not For Sale Network published NGOs call for free speech to be restored at WTO Ministerial Conference in UAE. NGOs filed formal complaints with WTO officials and key member nations on the first day of the 13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) in Abu Dhabi, UAE, due to the unannounced and unprecedented removal of civil society’s rights to Freedom of Speech and Political Expression at what is being billed as

WTO’s most “open, transparent and inclusive process” ever. Previous WTO ministerials have allowed civil society participants to distribute information and analyses, take photos, display banners, and other forms of engagement, but Abu Dhabi’s world trade summit has seen various repressions of these actions.

Read the full call here: https://buff.ly/42XEyAK
Resurj in collaboration with participating partners and members launched this publication as a collective reflection about the wins and losses of the 2023 Commission on the Status of Women (CSW67) and Commission on Population and Development (CPD56).

**Publication (Eng, Esp, Arabic):** [https://resurj.org/resource/missed-opportunities-and-false-binaries/](https://resurj.org/resource/missed-opportunities-and-false-binaries/)

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The OECD’s new publication, "Breaking the Vicious Circles of Informal Employment and Low-Paying Work," highlights the specific types of risks that hinder informal workers and their children from breaking free from informality and building better lives. It emphasizes the **double burden** of informal workers, who face both informal employment and low wages.

Despite numerous **efforts** by many countries, progress towards the sustainable formalisation of economies remains slow. As the report reveals, nearly 60% of the global workforce, or nearly 2 billion workers, are informal, with the percentage rising to 90% in low-income countries.

**See:** [https://doi.org/10.1787/f95c5a74-en](https://doi.org/10.1787/f95c5a74-en)

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**GreeNa Platform for Climate Change Awareness**

The Madani Foundation for Development launched a specialized online platform called [GreeNa platform](https://www.madani.org/greena) for climate change awareness, adaptation, and mitigation efforts, with a focus on gender-sensitive approaches in Yemen.
UNRISD: The International Anti-Gender Movement

A new UNRISD working paper by Haley McEwen and Lata Narayanaswamy, titled "The International Anti-Gender Movement," delves into the rise of a global movement opposing gender-related rights and policies.

The "anti-gender advocacy" aims to preserve the heteropatriarchal sex and gender power hierarchy across social, political, economic, and cultural life, as highlighted by the authors of the paper. This translates to opposition to policies promoting gender equality and the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, including access to abortion and healthcare specific to transgender and intersex individuals.

The paper analyses how anti-gender movements operate at various levels, from local communities to the international stage, mobilizing against advancements in gender equality and LGBTQ+ rights. The paper also suggests potential avenues for countering the movement's influence, such as collaborative efforts with religious communities and LGBTQ+ individuals to promote shared understanding and challenge restrictive interpretations of religion and societal norms.

Access to the full UNRISD publication here: subm-colonialism-sexual-orientation-un-ios-unrisd-input-2.pdf (ohchr.org)